

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 4-11, and 13-18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 4-6, 9, 11, 13-15, and 17-18 are amended and claim 12 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. No new matter is added. Support for the changes can be found, for example, in Applicants' Figs. 3-6, pg. 4, lines 18-30, pg. 6, lines 4-16, pg. 7, lines 5-31, pg. 8, lines 1-33, pg. 9, lines 15-24, and pg. 9, lines 25-34.

In response to the new grounds of rejection set forth in the Examiner's Answer dated September 20, 2006, Applicants request that prosecution be reopened to enter and consider this Amendment, which clarifies the claims to better distinguish the newly applied grounds of rejection.

Applicants acknowledge the withdrawal of all prior grounds of rejection in favor of a new rejection.

In the Examiner's Answer dated September 20, 2006, claims 1-2, and 4-18 are now rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,1444,452 to Abuyama in view of newly cited European Patent Publication No. EP996080 to Dawe et al. (Dawe). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Various claims, including independent claims 1, 5 and 12; are amended for further clarity and consistency to better distinguish the newly applied art. In particular, based on comments raised in the Examiner's Answer, independent claims 1 and 5 are amended to add a step of "automatically determining the number of times the duplicate input image can be replicated." Claims 1 and 5 are also amended to clarify that the duplicate input image "contains image data excluding any surrounding white-space portions of the input document." Moreover, the method automatically determines dimensions of the duplicate input image and bases the number of times the duplicate input image can be replicated "based on the

determined dimensions" (that exclude surrounding white-space portions). Finally, the system is instructed to replicate a select number of times up to the determined number to form a replicated output image. Independent apparatus claim 14 is similarly amended.

As admitted in the Examiner's Answer, Abuyama fails to teach and/or suggest a method for automatically determining a location of an original portion of an input document containing image data. Abuyama rather relies on a user to specify exact coordinate data (Figs. 5 and 7) to identify an area of interest. Only based on this user provided coordinate data is Abuyama's apparatus capable of determining how many copies to make. This is a cumbersome system that requires a large amount of user interaction and expertise.

Dawe is not concerned with reproduction and instead merely locates colored portions of a document, such as those surrounded by manually created highlighting. No further processing of areas of interest are identified. Because the Abuyama system has no highlighting, the Dawe method is not readily applicable to Abuyama.

Even if Dawe were combined with Abuyama as alleged, there is no teaching or suggestion of how to determine the number of copies that would fit on a page absent the user generated coordinate data. That is, there is no automatic determination of dimensions of the automatically formed duplicate input image. Moreover, neither reference teaches generation of a duplicate input image that excludes surrounding white-space areas and then determined the number of replications that can be made based on the image data of the duplicate input image excluding surrounding white-space areas. In this regard, neither reference even appreciates an advantage to this, such as an ability to make additional copies on a single page without having to shrink the image or resort to output on multiple pages.

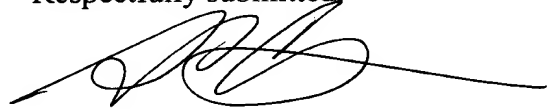
Because Abuyama, even if combined with Dawe, fails to teach or suggest each and every feature of independent claims 1, 5 and 14, these claims and claims dependent therefrom

patentably distinguish over the applied art. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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